

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended): A method of publishing a data message on a particular prespecified ~~first~~ topic from a publisher application to a subscriber application via a broker, comprising the steps of:

selecting a specific publication point data processing node of the broker from amongst a plurality of such publication point data processing nodes,

each of said plurality of publication point data processing nodes being dedicated to said particular prespecified ~~the first~~ topic, a publication point data processing node being an entry point data processing node of the broker, such entry point node being followed by a series of other data processing nodes where each node in the series carries out a specific data processing operation on the data message,

where each publication point data processing node of said plurality of publication point data processing nodes is followed by a series of data processing nodes unique to the respective publication point data processing node,

and where the broker acts as an intermediary between the publisher application and the subscriber application, thus making it unnecessary for the publisher application and the subscriber application to know any details about each other because said particular prespecified ~~the broker uses a~~ topic is associated with a data message received from a publisher application, and is used by the broker in order to determine which message should be sent to which subscriber application by sending the message to the subscriber applications that have previously registered a subscription request for said particular prespecified ~~the~~ topic, wherein the broker is a separate entity from the publisher application and subscriber application; and

communicating with the broker via the selected publication point data processing node, in order to publish the data message on said particular prespecified ~~the first~~ topic via the broker to subscriber applications that have previously registered a subscription request to said particular prespecified ~~the first~~ topic,

with the broker carrying out the data processing operations corresponding to the series of data processing nodes unique to the selected publication point data processing node, in order to process the data message in a different way depending on which publication point data processing node is selected even though each of the plurality of publication point data processing nodes are dedicated to said particular prespecified ~~the~~ ~~same~~ topic.

10. (Previously presented): The method of claim 9 wherein a first publication point data processing node is followed by a message transformation node and a second publication point data processing node is not followed by a message transformation node, whereby, when the first publication point data processing node is selected, published messages undergo transformation by the message transformation node and when the second publication point data processing node is selected, published messages will not undergo transformation by the message transformation node.

11. (Previously presented): The method of claim 10 wherein the publisher application selects the first publication point data processing node if message transformation is to take place or selects the second publication point data processing node if message transformation is not to take place.

12. (Previously presented): A computer program product, stored on a computer readable storage medium, for, when run on a computer system, instructing the computer system to carry out the method of claim 9.